



The Newsletter of the Bull Run Civil War Round Table — Vol XII, Issue 9 — December 2005

## **HISTORIAN STEVAN F. MESERVE THE HIDDEN BATTLES OF GETTYSBURG: THE CAMPAIGN BEGINS**

By John McAnaw

We are honored to have Stevan F. Meserve as our guest speaker for the general membership meeting on 9 December, 2005. Many BRCWRT members know this distinguished Loudoun County, VA historian. He is President of the Eastern Loudoun County Civil War Round Table and also a part-time tour guide who conducts visits to local and regional Civil War battlefields and other historic sites for the Loudoun County Department of Parks, Recreation and Community Services.

Stevan is a published author whose articles have appeared in the *Civil War Times Illustrated*, *Civil War Magazine*, *The Skirmish Line* and The Civil War page of *The Washington Times*. His articles on Charles Binns, a deserter from Mosby's Rangers who became a scout for the Union Cavalry, will appear in the January 2006 issue of *America's Civil War*. Additionally, Stevan was a contributor to the *Civil War Desk Reference* for the Library of Congress (2002) and a photograph researcher for Time-Life's *The Civil War Images of an American Tragedy*.

Our guest speaker was born in Grand Prairie, TX. His father was a career officer in the U.S. Air Force. Consequently, military assignments caused Stevan's family to relocate on a regular basis. Stevan's interest in the Civil War began at a very early age. Both of his parents were proud of their Civil War ancestors and the States of their birth; Illinois and Alabama, respectively. He truly grew up in a "Blue and Gray" family. Of interest, Stevan discovered, many years later, that his paternal and maternal ancestors in the 4<sup>th</sup> New Hampshire and the 14<sup>th</sup> Alabama actually fought one another at the battle of the Crater on 30 July 1864.

He attended college at North Carolina State and Brigham Young University, receiving a Bachelors degree at the latter institution. He is presently

**GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING  
8 DECEMBER 2005**

**Centreville Library**

**6:45 P.M. Christmas Party**

**7:15 P.M. Guest Speaker:  
Stevan Meserve**

**Subject:**

**The Hidden Battles of  
Gettysburg: The Campaign  
Begins**

the editor for a consulting company that has numerous contracts with such U.S. Government agencies as the Department of Defense, Department of Justice, and Department of Health and Human Services.

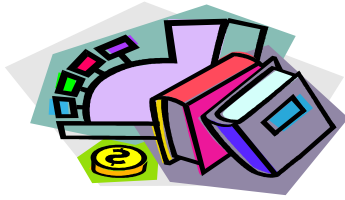
The subject of Stevan Meserve's presentation will be the fiercely-fought contests between Union and Confederate Cavalry in Northern Virginia during the month of June 1863 and their impact on the subsequent conduct of the Gettysburg Campaign. Do not miss Stevan's expert analysis of these momentous actions, including his assessment of the performances of key cavalry leaders on both sides. Join us on 8 December for what will be a thoroughly enjoyable evening.

**Merry  
Christmas**



**Happy  
Hanukkah**

**Happy New Year**



**ROUND TABLE  
BOOK SALES**

Please remember to bring your used Civil War books to our meetings to aid in our ongoing book sales. Besides helping to raise money for the BRCWRT, these books help raise our members' understanding of the Civil War. Thank you!

**INCLEMENT WEATHER SOP**

In the event of inclement weather during the winter and spring months, the following procedures will be followed:

**GENERAL**

If, on the date of a scheduled meeting or tour, adverse weather conditions exist or are imminent, take one of the following actions to determine whether or not the meeting or tour will be held as scheduled:

**MONTHLY MEETINGS**

1. Call John McAnaw at 703.978.3371. Either he or a recorded message will advise the caller, or
2. Call the Centreville Regional Library at 703.830.2223. A staff member will tell you if the meeting is on or not.

**TOURS**

1. Contact the Chief Tour Guide. The name, email address and/or telephone number of the Chief Tour Guide for each tour will be published in the monthly newsletter.
2. In the event that the Chief Tour Guide cannot be reached, call John McAnaw at 703.978.3371. Either he or a recorded message will provide the requested information.

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**BULL RUN CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE  
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**The Bull Run Civil War Round Table** publishes  
*The Stone Wall*.

**General Membership meetings** are held at  
7:15 p.m. on the second Thursday of the  
month at:

**The Centreville Regional Library**  
**14200 St. Germain Drive**  
**Centreville, VA 20121-2299**  
**703.803.2223**

For specific meeting dates and information,  
please visit the WEBSITE:

<http://bullruncwrt.org>

**SUBMISSION DEADLINE  
For JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2006 Issue**

E-mail Articles By 9:00 A.M. Monday, January 2

To [scox@capitalav.com](mailto:scox@capitalav.com)

**If you do not receive an acknowledgment of your e-mail article by Jan 3, please call Sandra at 703.675.0702 (cell) or 703.913.9890 (Capital AV) as it may have been blocked by company software.**

## The President's Column

By John P. McAnaw



Photo of Bud Hall By Janet Greentree

November was an eventful month. Well over 80 members and guests listened to a thoroughly entertaining and informative presentation by historian **Bud Hall on the 9 June 1863 Battle of Brandy Station.**

Two days after the meeting on 12 November, **Nancy Anwyll** led 17 Round Table members on a **first-ever tour of Civil War Baltimore, MD.** Careful planning by Nancy and near perfect weather combined for a memorable tour. It was certainly a pleasure to visit a real city whose residents, some 47 years prior to the Civil War successfully repelled British invaders during heavy fighting on 12-14 September 1814. Three weeks earlier, British forces captured Washington, D.C. Well, back to our American Civil War.

Another BRCWRT year is rapidly coming to a close. All members are invited to attend our **annual Christmas party** on 8 December and also to listen to **Stevan Meserve discuss the "Hidden Battles of Gettysburg"**. This past year has been a very successful one for our Round Table. Membership exceeded set goals for the year and, despite our low annual dues and high operational tempo, we will again end the year in the black. Consequently, there will be **no increase in dues for calendar year 2006.** The quality of our guest speaker program and our tours remained consistently high throughout 2005. Further, significant progress was made regarding the preservation of various Civil War sites and gaining the support of key political leaders including Chairman Gerald Connolly of the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors.

## UPCOMING MEETINGS

**12 JANUARY 2006**

**GUEST SPEAKER:**

**E. B. Vandiver, III**

**SUBJECT:**

**Civil War Sites of the South Atlantic Blockade**



**9 FEBRUARY 2006**

**GUEST SPEAKER:**

**Keith Young**

**SUBJECT:**

**Civil War Prisons: America's Shame**

Before closing, I want to commend all members who participated in Round Table activities. I extend my **special thanks to every member of the Executive Committee for their untiring and unselfish efforts in making the BRCWRT a well-functioning organization.**

Thank you for your support and, on behalf of the officers of the Round Table, I extend my best wishes for a happy and joyous holiday season and a healthy and rewarding 2006.

**"I want to commend all members who participated in Round Table activities."**

**John McAnaw**

## First Fairfax Countywide History Conference A Real Success

By Charlie Balch

On November 12 the "First Annual" Fairfax County History Conference was held at Frying Pan Park. The conference brought preservation groups together for background on county historic sites, an exchange of ideas, networking, and organizing for preservation. Based on attendee feedback, all of these objectives were met.

The presentations at the conference were diverse and well done. Speakers included Gerry Connolly, Chairman of the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors; Ron Maxwell, the filmmaker of *Gettysburg* and *Gods and Generals*; Bert Morgan with our own Chuck Mauro, filmmaker for the soon to be released *The Battle of Chantilly*; and several preservation panelists with solid experience.

During Chairman Connolly's remarks, he asked the Round Table attendees to be recognized; and he said, "I am working closely with the Round Table team on Civil War preservation in the county." His support has been helpful in our Ox Hill and Centreville Historic District preservation efforts. Chairman Connolly's interest in the Civil War and its preservation were clearly expressed.

The Round Table was very well represented with eleven members in attendance. They represented not only the Round Table but many other county preservation groups. Those who attended included Charlie Balch, Ron Beavers, Tim Duskin, Bill Etue, Tom Evans, Drew Lavan, Harlan and Sharon Lenius, Chuck Mauro, Bob Rhode, and Keith Young.

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## Symposium On Prince William Historic Preservation

By John De Pue

On November 17, 2005, Prince William County hosted a "Symposium on Historic Preservation" at the Old Courthouse Building in Manassas. Sharon Pandack, the former County Attorney, acted as moderator for the program. The attendees and participants included representatives from virtually every historical and preservation society in the County, including those dedicated to the preservation of a particular building or site such as "Historic Brentsville" and Beverly Mill at Thoroughfare Gap. The meeting began with an

overview of ongoing historic preservation projects presented by the newly-hired county historical architect. It included updates on restoration. The primary purpose of the symposium was to afford the various historic groups represented the opportunity to get to know one another and learn of the interests, programs and initiatives of each. To that end, I was given the floor to discuss the activities of the BRCWRT, enumerate the many sites in the county that have recently been obliterated by development, and to stress our strong interest in preserving the sites that remain. I was gratified to hear that many other attendees knew us well; several expressed appreciation for our strong and vocal support of efforts to preserve county Civil War sites during public hearings conducted by the Planning Board and the Board of Supervisors.

Ms. Pandack also proposed the establishment of a "Prince William County Historical Foundation." Its purpose would be two-fold: (1) to coordinate and mutually support historic preservation efforts; (2) to coordinate fundraising efforts to foster and enhance such efforts. I anticipate that additional meetings will follow, and strongly urge other Roundtable members who reside in the County to attend. I truly believe that it's of vital importance to support this effort, and through such an organization, to advance our interests in Civil War site preservation within the County.



## Death of Oliver Jones

We have recently learned that longtime BRCWRT member, Oliver W. Jones, died in Manassas on July 22nd, 2005 after an extended illness. He was 86 years old. Oliver was a World War II veteran, and for his service in the Army Air Corps, he received the Purple Heart and several other medals. Prior to settling in the Arlington area where he worked as an IRS attorney, he lived in Oklahoma. Upon his retirement from the IRS, he moved from Arlington to Manassas. He was buried with full honors at Arlington Cemetery September 22, 2005. Our sympathy goes out to his family.

By Nancy Anwyll

# CALENDAR OF EVENTS

*Note: If you plan to attend an event, please verify the information given. Advance reservation and fee may apply. If you would like an event posted please e-mail Dale Maschino at [fsainc@netzero.net](mailto:fsainc@netzero.net).*

**10 Dec** – Brandy Station, public is invited to see the Civil War writings on the walls of the Graffiti House, during the "Old Time Christmas" celebration. 1 to 4 pm, A Victorian holiday will be remembered through music and stories. Refreshments will be served, see [www.brandystationfoundation.com](http://www.brandystationfoundation.com)

**10 Dec** – Fort Ward, Alexandria. "Christmas in Camp Open House" soldier and civilian living history, Victorian decorations, music, refreshments and tours of the fort. Noon – 4 pm. \$2 adults, 703-838-4848 or [www.fortward.org](http://www.fortward.org)

**10 Dec** – Frederick, Md. "Museums by Candle-light", annual event includes the National Museum of Civil War Medicine. Living history, music and more. 2-7 pm. Free. 301-695-1864, or [www.civilwarmed.org](http://www.civilwarmed.org).

**10-11 Dec** – Fredericksburg; - living history, encampment, music, kids' games and military demonstrations at Ferry Farm, George Washington's boyhood home across the river from the City. 10 am-4 pm Saturday, 10 am-2 pm Sunday. \$5 fee. Call 540-370-0732 ext. 11, or [www.ferryfarm.org](http://www.ferryfarm.org).

**11 Dec** – Fredericksburg, Walking tour and ceremony at the Fredericksburg National Battlefield commemorate the anniversary of the battle. Wreath laying at the Kirkland Memorial at 2 pm following a walking tour of the Irish Brigade march from City Dock. Free, info. [www.nps.gov/frsp](http://www.nps.gov/frsp)

**11 Dec** – Hanover Tavern, on Rt. 301 North of Richmond. Open house and living history, the Christmas of 1864 is recreated at this 18<sup>th</sup> century tavern. Free, call 804-537-5050, or [www.hanovertavern.org](http://www.hanovertavern.org).

**11 Dec** – Richmond, special event, "Court End Christmas", attractions in Richmond's Court End neighborhood, which includes the Museum of The Confederacy, are open with free admission. Noon-5 pm. Information, call 804-649-1861.

**17-19 Dec** – Clinton, MD – Surratt House Museum, special tours, Christmas decorations and exhibits. 6-9 pm. \$3. Details: 301-868-1121 or [www.surratt.org](http://www.surratt.org)



## CHRISTMAS NIGHT OF '62

*The wintry blast goes wailing by,  
The snow is falling overhead;  
I hear the lonely sentry's tread,  
And distant watch-fires light the sky.*

*Dim forms go flitting through the gloom;  
The soldiers cluster round the blaze  
To talk of other Christmas days,  
And softly speak of home and home.*

*My sabre swinging overhead  
Gleams in the watch-fire's fitful glow,  
While fiercely drives the blinding snow,  
And memory leads me to the dead.*

*My thoughts go wandering to and fro,  
Vibrating 'twixt the Now and Then;  
I see the low-browed home again,  
The old hall wreathed with mistletoe.*

*And sweetly from the far-off years  
Comes borne the laughter faint and low,  
The voices of the Long Ago!  
My eyes are wet with tender tears.*

*I feel again the mother-kiss,  
I see again the glad surprise  
That lightened up the tranquil eyes  
And brimmed them o'er with tears of bliss,*

*As, rushing from the old hall-door,  
She fondly clasped her wayward boy—  
Her face all radiant with the joy  
She felt to see him home once more.*

*My sabre swinging on the bough  
Gleams in the watch-fire's fitful glow,  
While fiercely drives the blinding show  
Aslant upon my saddened brow.*

*Those cherished faces all are gone!  
Asleep within the quiet graves  
Where lies the snow in drifting wares,—  
And I am sitting here alone.*

*There's not a comrade here to-night  
But knows that loved ones far away  
On bended knees this night will pray:  
"God bring our darling from the fight."*

*But there are none to wish me back,  
For me no yearning prayers arise.  
The lips are mute and closed the eyes—  
My home is in the bivouac.*

William Gordon McCabe (1841-1920)

The author was in Lee's Army of Northern Virginia during the Christmas of '62, bivouacked near Fredericksburg after the battle .

## Ox Hill Parking Area Studied; Marker Text Writing Continues

By: Ed Wenzel

The Fairfax County Department of Public Works and Environmental Services (DPW&ES) is currently reviewing questions regarding size requirements for the Ox Hill Battlefield Park's parking area. Until the DPW&ES responds to these questions, final design of the parking area by SWSG Engineering cannot proceed. Accordingly, Michael Rierson, Ox Hill Project Team Leader, postponed the November team meeting until sometime in December.

Regarding the park's historical interpretation, Mike Henry, Interpretive Team Leader, is working on final text for the wayside markers and kiosk panels. The writer has contributed draft text for five of the proposed seven to eight markers and has recommended that greater detail and information be presented than permitted by the current 200-word limit used at other parks. John Hennessy, Assistant Superintendent at Fredericksburg & Spotsylvania NMP, and Jim Burgess, Museum Specialist at Manassas NBP, have agreed to review the final text, maps and illustrations for accuracy and overall acceptability.

Also, the trustees of the Kearny & Stevens monuments, with counsel, will proceed soon to the Fairfax County Circuit Court to fill the vacancies left by the deaths of Everett Landers and Brian Pohanka, and by the resignation of Barbara Dempsey. The new trustee substitutes include Clark B. Hall of Middleburg, Va., Marylynne Bauer Pohanka of Alexandria, Va. and John J. Fitzpatrick of Caldwell, N.J. These appointments will return the number of trustees to the six authorized by the original deed given by former Confederate John Ballard and his wife, Mary, in 1915. The other three trustees include William B. Styple of Kearny, N.J., the Honorable David D. Furman of Far Hills, N.J. and the writer.

### JOIN US AT THE LONE STAR

Do you come directly to the monthly meeting from work and look for a place to eat, or would you just like to come early for dinner? Join the BRCWRT board and our monthly guest speaker for good food and camaraderie.

We meet at 5:30 p.m. in the Alamo Room of the Lone Star located in Centreville Square near the library. **Space is limited so RSVP** to Nancy Anwyll ([nanwyll@patriot.net](mailto:nanwyll@patriot.net) or 703.866.2230) no later than Tuesday before each meeting.

Of course, it's always Dutch treat for the 'cheap and the proud'!

## ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Our annual election of officers for 2006 will take place during the December 2005 meeting.

The slate of nominees consists of the following:

John McAnaw -- President

Charlie Balch --Vice President

Mark Knowles - Treasurer

Dale Maschino-- Secretary

Paula Elsey has decided to stand down in view of Dale Maschino's interest in the position.

## THE BIVOUAC IN THE SNOW

Halt!--the march is over,  
Day is almost done;  
Loose the cumbrous knapsack,  
Drop the heavy gun.  
Chilled and wet and weary,  
Wander to and fro,  
Seeking wood to kindle  
Fires amidst the snow.

Round the bright blaze gather,  
Heed not sleet nor cold;  
Ye are Spartan soldiers,  
Stout and brave and bold.  
Never Xerxian army  
Yet subdued a foe  
Who but asked a blanket  
On a bed of snow.

Shivering, 'midst the darkness,  
Christian men are found,  
There devoutly kneeling  
On the frozen ground—  
Pleading for their country,  
In its hour of woe—  
For its soldiers marching  
Shoeless through the snow.

Lost in heavy slumbers,  
Free from toil and strife,  
Dreaming of their dear ones—  
Home, and child, and wife—  
Tentless they are lying,  
While the fires burn low—  
Lying in their blankets,  
**'Midst December's snow.**

Margaret Junkin Preston  
(1820-1897)

The author was the wife of Prof. J. T. L. Preston, founder of the Virginia Military Institute, and sister of Elinor, the first wife of Thomas Jonathan Jackson. Her father was ardent Unionist Dr. George Junkin, a Presbyterian clergyman and President of Washington College, Lexington, VA (1848-1861). At the outbreak of the war, Dr. Junkin resigned and returned to Philadelphia saying, "I will never hear a recitation or deliver a lecture under a rebel flag."

## THANKS TO NANCY ANWYLL

By John McAnaw

Effective 1 January 2006, Nancy Anwyll will no longer be the Secretary for the BRCWRT – a position that she has held for five years. Nancy performed her prescribed duties as Secretary in an absolutely superb manner, thereby greatly facilitating the effective operation of the Executive Committee and the success of our scheduled activities.

Nancy faithfully attended all organizational meetings and virtually all of our numerous tours. She also was an active participant in the Round Table's hugely successful search for Civil War sites in Fairfax County. As mentioned elsewhere, she planned and led a most rewarding and enjoyable tour of Civil War Baltimore on 12 November 2005. On many occasions she demonstrated her astute knowledge of the American Civil War. She also insured that all participants in Round Table activities were given a distinctive name tag, thereby increasing camaraderie within the organization. For years, Nancy has been a key member of the Newsletter Team by acting as a proofreader and insuring that each issue of the *Stone Wall* is mailed to the membership in a timely manner.

On behalf of every member of the Executive Committee, I want to thank Nancy for her assistance and advice. The good news is that although Nancy is standing down as Secretary, she will continue to be an active member of our organization.

One last item, **Nancy added a second motto, or shibboleth to our Round Table crest**, as a result of our tours and intensive search of Civil War sites. You had to be there to appreciate her words, **"If there's a path, we won't take it!"**

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## AFTER ACTION REPORT OF BALTIMORE TOUR

By Nancy Anwyll

The first tour by the BRCWRT to Baltimore on November 12<sup>th</sup> was enjoyed by 17 of our members and spouses on a sunny and pleasant day. After assembling in Fairfax and Baltimore, we stopped at Federal Hill, the first historic site on the agenda. There we enjoyed a magnificent view of the Inner Harbor and got an overview of the location of railroads, railroad stations, and Civil War forts that were in Baltimore. John McAnaw then

explained to us how General Benjamin Butler took control of the city in early May of 1861.



Federal Hill photo by Janet Greentree

Our next stop was at the President Street Railroad Station, the site of the Philadelphia, Wilmington, & Baltimore Railroad Station in the Civil War. Here Ralph Vincent and Charles Frascoti, two volunteers from the Friends of the President Street Station, led us on a walking tour of the route that the 6<sup>th</sup> Massachusetts Regiment took from the PW & B Station to the B & O Camden Station on April 19, 1861.

Whereas the 6<sup>th</sup> Massachusetts on their march fought off loud and angry civilians in 1861, we had to fight off on our march the loud noise from heavy traffic on Pratt Street. The 6<sup>th</sup> Mass. lost four killed in 1861; the BRCWRT lost none in 2005. After the walking tour, we returned to the PW & B station and viewed the Civil War exhibits on display at the Civil War Museum in the station.

After a relaxing lunch on our own at nearby restaurants, we drove to Ft. McHenry. There we saw the film in the Visitors' Center. We then walked out to the flag pole where we and many fort visitors heard a 25-minute interesting and dramatic presentation by Chief Ranger, Scott Sheads, about the fort during the Civil War.

After Ranger Sheads spoke, our group walked the fort on our own, viewing exhibits, the large cannons, and the buildings within the fort walls. In addition, as we stood on the parapets, we noted the fort's strategic location on the Patapsco River and the magnificent view.

Those attending the tour were: Kevin Anastas, Nancy Anwyll, Dominic and Effie Bumbaca, Don and Marcia Clements, Sandra Cox, Janet Greentree, Mark Knowles, Lyle Loveall, Dan Lundeen, Dale Maschino, Harold Matthias, John McAnaw, Randy Moller, Rose Nelson, and Bev Regeimbal.

## The Book Corner

By Ralph G. Swanson

For the first time, **The Book Corner** is compelled to retreat from a position long held and forcefully defended. A few years ago this column recommended *Lincoln* by Gore Vidal as the single best novel of the Civil War. However, continuing efforts to outflank a long line of unread books in my Civil War library finally obliged me to attack a boat-anchor of a novel, *Freedom, A Novel of Abraham Lincoln and the Civil War* by William Safire.

Mr. Safire, late the token conservative opinion columnist for the New York Times, is well known for his non-fiction work, such as a riveting pre-Watergate history of the Nixon administration, and his non-stop harping on the correct use of the English language. I long doubted whether Mr. Safire could bring anything new and entertaining to the Civil War literature and was comfortable in my procrastination regarding his book.

Once commenced, however, I was immediately struck by the depth and breadth of Safire's historical research, an effort that sets his novel well above any, including the excellent work of Gore Vidal. The difference is Safire's use of a literary tool heretofore unknown to this reviewer 'the Underbook' the detailed sources and commentary informing readers where reporting ends and imagination begins. No typical annotated bibliography, this 150+ page appendix describes in fascinating detail the documentary sources for the events, people and dialogue in his novel. I found myself racing through the chapters in order to flip to the Underbook asking, "Did he really say and do that?"

One of the major delights in this book is foretold by Safire at the beginning: "If it is outrageously and obviously fictional, it is fact." Much that Safire presents as utterly incredible about the Lincoln administration is indisputably sourced in the Underbook.

For example, how many of you have heard of Miss Anna Ella Carroll? The first of multiple protagonists in the novel, she is portrayed as an early day feminist, political analyst, confidant (and more) of Presidents, Senators and other leading political figures in the Buchanan and Lincoln administrations. The real Ms. Carroll grew up steeped in Maryland politics, the daughter of a Maryland Governor and descendent of a signer of the Declaration of Independence. But Safire audaciously suggests that she originated the military plan to attack in the west, not down the Mississippi as General

Winfield Scott proposed, but on the Cumberland and Tennessee Rivers. Ridiculous! How could someone untrained in military matters seriously advocate such nonsense? And a woman no less!! Yet, her handwritten plan, dated November 30, 1861, resides in the archives of the Maryland Historical Society. It was sent to Assistant Secretary of War Thomas Scott. Scott wrote twice after the war attesting to receipt of the plan and its transmittal to the Secretary of War and to Lincoln. The Tennessee River strategy, resulting in the rise of U.S. Grant, had an undeniably profound impact on the war, and, arguably, the shape of our nation and society to this day.

As a political pamphleteer Anna Carroll was apparently quite influential. Her *Reply to the Speech of John C. Breckinridge in the United States Senate on July 16, 1861*, dated September 9, 1861, is an insightful analysis of the war powers of the Federal government. In it she justifies Lincoln's suspension of *habeas corpus* in order to jail Maryland legislators and prevent secession of that important border state. There may have been no more important early war measure than this unpopular act by a courageous President Lincoln.

Then there is the episode of the chiroprapist (what we know today as a podiatrist). Dr. Isachar Zacharie was a most unlikely war hero. While Dr. Zacharie did, in fact, become a Presidential friend after carving on Lincoln's painful bunions, was he really sent south by Lincoln as a spy using his medical skills as a cover? Outrageously and obviously fictional, you say? The Underbook provides all the fascinating details and evidence.

This novel sweeps its readers along with the events, the people and the intrigue of wartime Washington DC. A harried Lincoln is beset on all sides: Radical Republicans pressing immediate abolition and enlistment of black soldiers, Secretary of Treasury Salmon Chase jockeying to supplant Lincoln as party nominee in 1864, arrogant and recalcitrant army generals, and the frivolous White House expenditures by Mrs. Lincoln. Throughout the novel Safire grafts fiction onto verbatim dialogue from speeches, letters, diaries and official correspondence. Few scenes are not based at least partly on fact. As a result, there

( See The Book Corner, Page 9 )



## THE BOOK CORNER (Continued From Page 8)

is more new and factual information to be learned here than from many civil war histories.

But the title is *Freedom*, and the back-story of this novel is the inexorable pulling of a reluctant president toward emancipation of the American negro slave. How could a president so astute on most other important political matters, have been so wrong on the slavery question?

Lincoln was at best a 'gradual emancipationist' with a wholly impractical plan that included compensation to slaveholders, African colonization, and a delayed end to slavery until 1900. Lincoln may have been wrong, but he was not, in the end, blind to reality on the slavery issue. By the climax of the novel, on January 1, 1863, the President signs the Emancipation Proclamation, one of the few presidential documents bearing his full name, 'Abraham Lincoln'. The Presidential journey along this road is just one of many enjoyable themes in this book.

Do not be intimidated by this novel, 1,400+ pages in paperback. This book will more than repay your efforts with hours of enjoyment, astonishment, and reading pleasure. If this novel does not stimulate many good conversations in entirely new areas of your Civil War studies, then read it again!

Until next time, keep reading.

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**Did you know "The Book Corner" reviewer and BRCWRT member, Ralph Swanson, lives in Orem, Utah?** He and his wife joined the Round Table just months after its inception in 1991. Ralph used to be Battlefield Preservation Chair when they lived in Herndon, but work took them to Utah in 1994. He used to participate in most of the great early tours but says, "I see the Round Table is doing even better tours now, and that is what I miss the most." Ralph has been doing the book review column for five or six years. His goal is "not to review the new books being published, but rather to lead members to the best of the existing literature still on the shelves." He has read over 200 books on the Civil War and feels "I can guide people to the few books that I think are really the best."

If some of our RT old-timers thought they saw Ralph at the October meeting, they did!



## NEW BOOK ON "THE GENERAL"

BRCWRT Past President and member, Dan Paterson, advises a new book on his Great Grandfather is available.

### James Longstreet: Before Manassas & After Appomattox

by Gordon Sawyer

Cost: \$24.50

Mail orders may be requested with an additional charge of \$3.00 per book for shipping and handling. Make checks payable to "Hall County History Fund" and mail to Hall County Library System, Attn: History Fund, 127 Main Street NW, Gainesville, Georgia 30501.



**Do you value your BRCWRT  
membership? Help us plan for  
2006.**

**Renew at the DECEMBER  
Meeting!**

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**BULL RUN CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE**

**The Stone Wall**

**P.O. Box 2147**

**Centreville, VA 20122**

**2005 Bull Run Civil War Round Table – MEMBERSHIP FORM**

**We are delighted that you are interested in joining our organization and look forward to seeing you at our next meeting and at our upcoming events!**

**Annual dues are:**

**Individual—\$15.00. Family—\$25.00. Student (age 22 and under)—\$10.00.**

**Make checks payable to: BRCWRT (Bull Run Civil War Round Table). This form may be given to the President or Treasurer at the General Membership meeting. Or mail it to:**

**Mark Knowles, Treasurer**

**169 Applegate Drive**

**Sterling, VA 20164**

**NAME** \_\_\_\_\_

**ADDRESS** \_\_\_\_\_

**CITY** \_\_\_\_\_ **STATE** \_\_\_\_\_ **ZIP** \_\_\_\_\_

**PHONE** \_\_\_\_\_ **EMAIL** \_\_\_\_\_